

Sowing of rabi crop

†1801 SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sowing of wheat in the country for rabi crop during the current year has been completed;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any estimate of wheat production in the ensuing season;

(c) if so, the total quantity of wheat estimated to be produced; and

(d) the estimated rate of production of wheat in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. Sowing of wheat is in progress. As per the reports received in the Crop Weather Watch Group meeting, the area covered under wheat sowing till 1st December 2006 stands at 154.21 lakh hectares.

(b) The advance estimate of wheat production for the year 2006-07 would be due for release in January 2007

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Land under wheat cultivation

†1802. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 45 per cent more land have been brought under wheat cultivation for rabi crop in the country in comparison to previous year;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the extent of land being used for wheat cultivation in wheat producing States *i.e.* Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, etc. respectively and to what extent quantum is more in comparison to previous year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether it is also a fact that Certain crops have been sowed in less area and if so, the details of their names alongwith the extent of the land in which said crops have been sowed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As per the reports received for the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group meeting held in the Ministry on 01.12.2006, area coverage under wheat cultivation for Rabi 2006-07 stands at 154.21 lakh hectares till 1st December, 2006. This shows an increase of 9.6% over the 140.68 lakh hectares area coverage during the corresponding period last year. Following table gives the area coverage under wheat during Rabi 2006-07, during the corresponding period of Rabi 2005-06 and the change in the major wheat producing States:

State	Area under Wheat (Lakh Hectares)		
	2006-07	2005-06	Difference
	(till 01.12.2006)	(till 01.12.2005)	
Punjab	29.42	27.59	1.83
Haryana	20.25	17.50	2.75
Uttar Pradesh	41.20	46.42	-5.22
Madhya Pradesh	27.21	21.54	5.67
Rajasthan	12.95	8.98	3.97
Bihar	3.92	0.95	2.97
Gujarat	5.91	3.54	2.37
Maharashtra	5.97	5.36	0.61

(d) Following table gives the area coverage under major Rabi crops during 2006-07 (reported upto 01.12.2006) *vis-a-vis* during the corresponding period of 2005-06:

Crop	Rabi Area (Lakh Hectares)		
	2006-07	2005-06	Difference
	1	2	
Rice	4.25	3.66	0.59
Jowar	45.17	46.08	-0.91
Maize	6.48	5.49	0.99

1	2	3	4
Barley	5.66	5.44	0.22
Gram	61.43	56.39	5.04
Urad	3.18	3.19	-0.01
Moong	1.73	1.47	0.26
Masur	10.86	12.71	-1.85
Rapeseed & Mustard	61.36	66.10	-4.74
Groundnut	2.67	3.10	-0.43
Sunflower	8.73	10.62	-1.89
Linseed •	3.78	4.31	0.53
Safflower	3.02	3.26	-0.24

Area coverage till 1st December, 2006 under jowar, urad, masur, rapeseed & mustard, groundnut, sunflower, linseed and Safflower show decline during 2006-07 compared to the corresponding period last year.

Area under cultivation

†1803. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the size of land holding in the country has been decreasing during the last few years;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the size of average holding, which was 2 hectare in 1976-77 has now been reduced to merely 0.2 hectare;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether this decrease in the size of holding is required to be checked; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

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